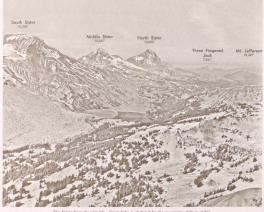
# Historic, archived document

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The Sisters from the east side. Green Lake is sheltered by the mountains, (left to right)
South. Middle and North Sisters, Three Fingered Jack and Mt. Jefferson.









### THE WILDERNESS

The Three Sisters Wilderness Area, a rugged and beautiful country of high volcanic mountains, lava flows, glacial lakes and alpine vegetation, has been set aside for the preservation of its primitive environment. The 196,708-acre area lies ast cade Mountain Range in parts of the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests of Oregon.

Established as a Primitive Area in 1937 and reclassified as Wilderness in 1957, the area is managed by the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to preserve the natural attractions of the land and to provide the people with a retreat from civilization where they can find ample apportunities for spiritual inspiration, physical and mental enjoyment and scientific study. With the exception of trails and occasional rustic shelters maintained by the Forest Service, the area exists in its natural state.

#### ALONG THE CREST OF THE CASCADES

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The Cascade Mannisine, which no north and south orcess the state of the Cascade Cascade
Cascade Cascad Forest, the amount of precipitation decreases sharply. Bend has an average annual rainfall of less than 13 inches.

Much of the precipitation is in the form of snow during the long winter, which lasts from November through June. Accumulations up to

20 feet have been recorded at higher elevations. During this time, the area is inaccessible to hilkers.

Temperatures vary from 80 to 95° F. in the summer to -20 to -30° F. in the winter. Most summer temperatures are moderate, although

at higher elevations the evenings can be quite chilly. An occasional snowstorm in the summer months is not un-

#### THE VOLCANIC MOUNTAINS

Nearly all of the prominent features of the Wilderness Area are the result of intense volcanism. Volcanic activity, which began as far back as the Eccene period of geological history (40-60 million years ago) and continued up to a thousand years ago, has produced ins, cinder cones, lava flows, obsidian cliffs, and lakes dammed by lava flows.

The mountains are the main attraction of the Wilderness Area. The snow-capped Three Sisters lie in a north-south line and form a part of the Cascade Divide. The Sisters are surrounded by associated peaks of similar origin. Mountains which belong to the same cluster nclude the Brother, Husband, Wife, and Broken Top. The Middle Sister, smallest of the three mountains (10,047 feet), is sheltered on either side by the North and South Sisters. Its slopes

comparatively easy climbing for the novice, and on clear days its summit affords a view as far as Mt. Rainier to the north and Mt. Shasta

Near the summit of the South Sister, the tallest (10,358 feet) and most symmetrical of the three, mountain climbers will be surprised to find

The North Sister (10,085 feet), thought to be the oldest of the three, is the most difficult climb. Its slopes have been eroded into rugged, treacherous ridges and horse by glocifor activity. A popular take-off point for climbing the North Sister is Sunshine Shelter, located on the Oregon Skyline Trail near the beadwaters of White Branch, a glocal stream. Lava flows in the Wilderness Area have been and still are troublesome obstacles to travelers. Felix Scott, a sub-Indian agent in southern

Oregan and a promoter of the McKenzie Wagen Road, was the first while man to open a trail over the McKenzie pass. His trail, which of necessity crossed a portion of the lava flows, was blazed in 1863, but it was not until 1872 that a toll wagen road was opened. The Scott Trail cuts through the north end of the Wilderness Area.

The lava is of a type known as á á (or chunky) lava, and its rough, jagged and sharp character is a hazard to travelers. Trails have been hewn across the lava in places and are the only safe way to cross. Within the lava flows are some limbered arens. These land "silands" were formed as laval flowed around charder lavals. Verified as laval flowed around charder lands, very laval flowed, area flowed as laval flowed around charder lands, very laval flowed areas, leaving the upper portions acposed. On these lands, vegetation grows. and provides shelter and forage for wildlife.

Just south of Sunshine Shelser, the Skyline Trail traverses between the spectacular view of the North and Middle Sisters to the east and the Obsidian Cliffs on the west. The cliffs, a source of supply for Indian arrawheads, are solid obsidian (volcanic gloss), which glitters, mir-

#### ICE AND WATER

Collier Glacier is the largest of 14 in the Three Sisters region and largest of all glaciers in Oregon. It is 1-1/2 miles long and 3/4 mile the discrete field between the field of the

West and southwest of the Three Sisters are 36 lakes covering 995 acres. Sizes vary from about 5 acres to 300 acres. Many of these are moralinal lakes. Others have been formed by lave down. A group of small lakes called the Mirrors, south of the Wrife, were formed in this momer, as were linton Lake and Matthieu (akes. In the early spring the lakes sown with mosquitous. Fishing may be good, but comping can be uncomfortable. Later in the summer and fall these lakes are unexcelled for fishing, beauty, and comfort,

Because it is so accessible, Horse Lake is visited often by hikers and pack trains from Elk Lake, four miles east on the Deschutes National Forest. Mink Lake, the largest in the Wilderness Area, lies just north of Packsaddle Mountain. In the vicinity of Mink Lake is a network of beautiful small lakes, most of which are accessible by trail.

#### TRAILS, TIMBER AND WILDELOWERS

There are about 240 miles of trail within the Wilderness Area. Forty miles of the Oregon Skyline Trail traverse the Wilderness from north to south. It is part of the Pacific Crest Trail System which extends through Oregon and Washington. Many trails also serve the area by providing access from the periphery.

Travelers will find that trails in the Wilderness Area provide access to many types of scenery — from the lower elevations surrounding the Wilderness Area, up through limbered areas, through flower-filled mountain meadows, along clear mountain lakes, over lava flows, post obsidian cliffs and volcanic clared cones, and up to the base of the mountains.

Nearly all of the Wilderness Area is timbered, with the high peaks rising above timberline. Main species at higher elevations are mountain hemlock, alpine fit, ladgepole pine, and whitebark pine; at lower elevations grow western white pine, Engelmann spruce, western hemlock, white fit, western red-cedar and Douglas-fit.

Along the trails, the traveler frequently emerges from the dense forest cover into beautiful mountain meadows. In late spring these med And the county are travely related to the control and even between the debution individual measures. In this sharp kneel down, keep matrix and cool by lead spring rured<sup>2</sup>, or earlied with an obundance of wild flowers. Most speciaculor is the day blue lupine which blankets whole hillidies. Purple rock pentstems and wild heather cling to the cracks in the lowe, and the brilliant red Indian point brush stands on in the meadows. Many other wildflowers dot the meadows and open hillidises—amone, also cooks ladder, cord sor open swarps. laurel, snow plant, avalanche lily, elephanthead, shooting star, and mimulus are among those found.

## WILDLIEF

Within the Wilderness Area is a variety of wildlife. Columbia black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, and black bear are common. Black-tailed and mule deer intermingle during the summer months, especially near the crest of the Cascades. When fall snows come, the deer and elk move out of the area to lower elevations; the mule deer migrate and the black-tails and Roosevelt elk mov entire area is open for hunting during the such as mink, marten, weasel, raccoon, bob principal game birds and are found primar-

Fishing in the Wilderness Area is considered excellent. Fishermen may catch eastern brook and rainbow, the most abundant types, and German brown, native cutthroat golden trout, and some Dolly Varden. Gold an trout are found in a number of lakes in the Chambers Lake Basin and in several other lakes in the vicinity of the Three Sisters. Over 90 lakes are stocked periodically by the Oregon State Game Commission. Almos all planting is done by girolane



## RULES FOR WILDERNESS TRAVELERS

- 1. Be careful with fire
- a. Do not smoke while hiking or riding; but, rather, stop at a safe place and extinguish your smoke before leaving.
- b. Carefully extinguish your campfire with water. Do not bury live fire with dirt
- c. Law requires each party traveling with pack string to carry a water container with 1 gallon or more capacity, a 36-inch shovel with 8-inch blade, and ax with at least 2-pound head and 26-inch handle.
- a. Keep and leave a clean camp.
- b. Burn your garbage; cans should be burned, mashed and buried. Better yet, take them back out with you. c. Plan camp sanitation if facilities are not available.
- d. Keep horses outside camp area.
- e. Graze your pack and saddle animals wisely; avoid overuse of meadows. Carry grain or pelletized horse feed.
- 3. Motorized travel and equipment are prohibited within the Wilderness Area

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FOREST SUPERVISOR Deschutes National Forest 745 Bond Street Bend, Oregon

DISTRICT RANGER

Route 1, Box 67

Parrell Road

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION FOREST SUPERVISOR U. S. Forest Service P.O. Box 3623 729 N.E. Oregon Street Portland, Oregon

DISTRICT RANGER Sisters, Oregon

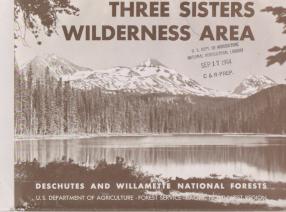
P.O. Box 1272 210 East 11th Eugene, Oregor

DISTRICT PANGER U.S. Forest Service













## SHELTERS

Shelters in the Wilderness Area are rough, open struct-

BUCK MEADOWS SHELTER - Located just north of Honey Lakes and Buck Meadows near the junction of the Louise Creek Trail (3520 and 3520.1) and the Buck Meadows Trail (3500A).

CLIFF LAKE SHELTER - Located along the Oregon Skyline Trail (2000) at Cliff Lake in the Mink Lake

boundary of the Wilderness on the Gold Creek Trail

Trail (3514) about a half mile east of its junction with the Sengration Creek Trail (3535).

JAMES SHELTER — Located at the junction of the Oregon Skyline Trail (2000) and the Separation Creek Trail (3535). Base camp for climbing the South Sister.

MINK LAKE SHELTER — Located along the Mink Lake-side Trail (3525) at the northeast share of Mink Lake. MUSKRAT LAKE SHELTER - Located on Winopee Lake

SUNSHINE SHELTER — Located along the Skyline Trail (2000), about four miles from Frog Camp via the Obsidian Trail (3528) and Glacier Way (3528A). A base





TRAIL LOG Loke
Minic Lake Loop Trail No. 3226 — west
Deschutes National Forest boundary
Junctinn with Souther Lokes Trail No. 33 — cost
Junctinn with Micropes Trail No. 16 — east and Elk Lol
Crouper Tile No. 3510 — west R461/2 E 00.0 - 00.6 Leave Winopee Trail No. 16 00.6 - 00.0 Teddy Lake and end of trail WICKIUP PLAI 00.0 - 02.5 00.3 - 02.2 01.0 - 01.5 02.5 - 00.0 SIX LAKES TRAIL NO. 14
00.0 – 10.6
01.2 – 09.6
01.2 – 09.6
01.2 – 09.8
01.2 – 09.8
01.2 – 09.9
02.7 – 07.9
04.1 – 06.5
04.1 – 06.5
08.8 – 01.8
01.8 – 01.8
01.6 – 00.0
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WILDERNESS AREA
SCHUTES AND WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FORE FOLEY RIDGE TRAIL NO. 3511 00.0 — 08.1 Leave Foley Rid Middle Bell'Lk 00.0 - 01.4 GOOSE LAKE TRAIL NO. 3542 00.0 - 02.0 Leave Skyline Trail No. 01.4 - 00.6 Goose Lake 02.0 - 00.0 McBee Trail No. 3523 06.3 = 07.2 07.2 = 06.3 07.4 = 06.1 08.0 = 05.5 09.8 = 03.7 12.5 = 01.0 12.7 = 00.8

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